

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 40-51 and 68-82 are pending in this application. Claims 80-82 are canceled.

Claims 40-51 and 68-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Maruyama et al. (JP 11-187013). Applicants have amended claims 40, 68, and 73 to clarify the "simplified tree structure" aspect of the present invention.

The present claims now recite "the simplified tree structure being constructed from the hierarchical tree structure by selecting one or more paths between a top node and an end point node or a leaf of the hierarchical tree structure and not including one or more unnecessary nodes being in the selected one or more paths. An exemplary "simplified tree structure" is shown in Figure 26A and may be compared with the "hierarchical tree structure" shown in Figures 24A and 25A. Figure 26B shows how the enabling key block (EKB) of the simplified tree structure does not include keys for every node; i.e. unnecessary nodes in the path are not included. By contrast, the EKB for the hierarchical tree structure includes keys for every node as indicated in Figure 25B. In this manner, the simplified tree structure is used to specify a subset of keys for renewal in a selected path of the hierarchical tree structure. The simplified tree structure is described in the specification beginning at paragraph [0204].

Although Murayama does disclose an analogous hierarchical tree structure, it does not disclose the "simplified tree structure" recited in the present claims.

Moreover, Murayama does not discuss renewing/replacing a portion or subset of the keys in the tree structure. Accordingly, Murayama fails to anticipate the "simplified tree structure" and the present claims should now be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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